

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-3 and 8-19 are pending. No claim has been amended, added, or canceled.

Claims 1, 8, 16, and 19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Yamaki et al. Claims 2, 9-10 and 17-18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki et al. in view of Muramatsu and further in view of Hayato. Claim 3 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki in view of Hayato and further in view of Yoshino. Claim 11 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki in view of Hoashi. Claim 12 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki in view of Kraft and further in view of Motegi. Claims 13-14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki in view of Kraft. Claim 15 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamaki in view of Cobb.

Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. The present application claims priority to JP Application No. 2000-005858, filed on January 7, 200. The primary reference in the above rejections, Yamaki, was filed as a PCT application on November 29, 2000, after the priority date of the present application. Therefore, Yamaki is not a prior art reference. Other references do not disclose the features the Examiner *alleged* as being disclosed in Yamaki.

Appl. No. 09/755,878
Amdt. dated August 13, 2004
Reply to Office Action of May 13, 2004

PATENT

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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